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MOEHRLE

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

To: Mail Stop **Non-Fee Amendment**
 From: Jonathan Feuchtwang

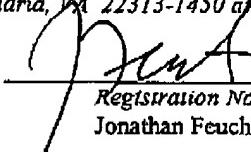
In Re U.S. Patent Application))	Pages including this cover sheet: 10
Applicant:	Armin Moehrle		
Serial No.	10/164,520		
Filed:	June 6, 2002		
For:	ACTIVE PATH MENU NAVIGATION SYSTEM		
Att Unit:	2173		
Examiner:	Namitha Pillai		

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Date


 Registration No. 41,017
 Jonathan Feuchtwang
Enclosures

- (1) Transmittal;
- (2) Amendment D; and
- (3) Certificate of Facsimile Transmission.

Jonathan Feuchtwang, Esq.

July 11, 2006

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PTO/SB/21 (08-04)

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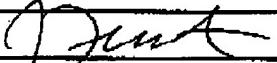
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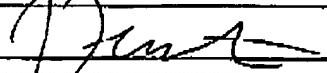
Application Number	10/164,520
Filing Date	June 6, 2002
First Named Inventor	Armin Moehrle
Art Unit	2173
Examiner Name	PILLAI
Attorney Docket Number	Moehrle-1

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below).
Remarks		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
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Date	July 11, 2006	Reg. No.	41,017

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Date	July 11, 2006

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PATENT APPLICATION

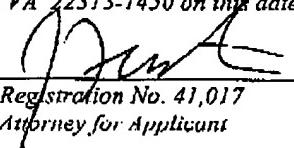
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application)
 Applicant: Armin Moehrle)
 Serial No. 10/164,520)
 Filed: June 6, 2002)
 For: ACTIVE PATH MENU)
 NAVIGATION SYSTEM)
 Art Unit: 2173)
 Examiner: Namitha Pillai)

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11 July 2006

Date


 Registration No. 41,017
 Attorney for Applicant
AMENDMENT D

Mail Stop After Final Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the office action mailed May 3, 2006, please amend the Application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

Applicant: Armin Moehrle
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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for navigating within a multi-level hierarchical collapsing menu structure where each level in the menu contains plural items, each said item being at least one of a function, a pointer to a location, and a pointer to another level, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a graphical user menu system displaying the items of a given level and enabling selection thereof, wherein access of said given level requires sequential access of each of the levels preceding said given level in the hierarchy; and

automatically constructing an Active Path as a sequence of hierarchical active links as items are selected using the graphical user menu system without the need for any additional interaction with the graphical user system, with one said active link corresponding to each of the items selected, each said active link being independently selectable thereby providing direct access to the hierarchical level from which the corresponding item was selected without the need to navigate using said graphical user menu system; and

displaying the Active Path as an alternative to the graphical user menu system for navigating the multi-level hierarchical collapsing menu structure after the user has finished selecting items using the graphical user system such that the Active Path is displayed after the

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multi-level hierarchical collapsing menu structure has collapsed; ;

wherein pre-selecting a given active link triggers the display of sibling menu items on the level associated with said given active link without disturbing the displayed Active Path.

2. (Previously Presented) The method for navigating according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing pre-defined short-cuts enabling direct access to a given menu item; and automatically constructing the Active Path when a pre-defined short-cut is executed, with one said active link corresponding to each of the menu items necessary to access said given menu item using said graphical user menu system.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method for navigating according to claim 1, wherein selecting a given active link triggers the execution of a function associated with said given active link.

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5. (Original) The method for navigating according to claim 1, wherein selecting a given active link triggers display of information associated with said given active link.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a user-defined short-cut is defined on-the-fly by storing a short-cut identifier and an associated plurality of active links in a look-up table.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for navigating according to claim 31, wherein pre-selecting a given active-menu item displayed while pre-selecting the given active link triggers the display of subordinate menu items.

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REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 3, now canceled without prejudice. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 and to clarify features of the invention. Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 are now pending in the application.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that Claim 2 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guerrero (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,400). Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claim 3, now canceled without prejudice, and respectfully traverses the rejection as follows.

Amended claim 1 recites a feature where pre-selecting ("browsing") a given Active Link in the Active Path triggers the display of items on the level associated with the given Active Link without disturbing the displayed Active Path. It should be appreciated that the action of pre-selecting an Active Link is distinguished from the action of selecting an Active Link. Selecting an Active Link has two immediate effects: 1) it causes the graphical user menu system to directly jump to and display the hierarchical level associated with the selected Active Link; and 2) it truncates the Active Path by removing all Active Links subsequent to the selected Active Link.

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Guerrero fails to disclose or suggest the feature of pre-selecting or browsing an Active Link. Guerrero teaches a path list 504 (FIG. 5) and a choices list 506. The path list 504 displays the navigation path selected by the user. Entries in choices list 506 (e.g., entries 510A-510F) display the available selections to the user at a given level in the hierarchy. Path list 504 initially displays the root level of the file system hierarchy and choices list 506 displays the root level's children. To navigate through the hierarchy, the user selects an entry (e.g., entry 610F) in choices list 506, the selection is added to path list 504. If the selection has children, choices list 506 is updated to display the selection's children. If the selection is a leaf node, choices list 506 is removed and path list 504 is displayed in the vertical browser. By making a selection in path list 504, the user can traverse up the hierarchy to the level of the selection made in path list 504. The selection entries below the selected entry in path list 604 are removed from path list 604.

The office action asserts that Guerrero discloses the aforementioned features of Claim 3 which have been incorporated into Claim 1. The office action cites Guerrero col. 8, lines 7-11 in support of this assertion. The cited portion of Guerrero is as follows:

Further, in one or more embodiments of the invention, the user can return to any level of the hierarchy by selecting an entry in path list 504 with the pointer device's cursor. When an entry in path list 504 is selected, the entries positioned below the selected entry in path list 504 are removed. Choices list 506 is reset to the choices available at that navigational point. Guerrero col. 8, lines 7-11 (emphasis added by Applicant).

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The above-cited portion is inapposite because fails to disclose or suggest browsing an entry in the path list. Instead, the cited portion teaches selecting an entry in the path list which 1) causes the entries positioned below the selected entry in path list 504 to be removed, and updates the Choices list to the choices available at that navigational point. Accordingly, Guerrero's teachings are silent with respect to the feature of the claimed invention regarding pre-selecting or browsing an Active Link.

In support of the rejection of Claim 7, the office action cites Guerrero col. 7, lines 11-14. The cited portion of Guerrero is as follows:

In one embodiment of the invention, path list 504 initially displays the root level of the file system hierarchy and choices list 506 displays the root level's children. As a choice is selected from choices list 506, it is added to path list 504 and the children of the choice are displayed in choices list 506. FIGS. 6A-6D provide examples of a vertical browser according to an embodiment of the invention. Guerrero col. 7, lines 11-14.

The above-cited portion is inapposite because it fails to disclose or suggest the feature of claim 7 wherein pre-selecting a given menu item displayed while pre-selecting the given active link triggers the display of subordinate menu items. Instead, the cited portion teaches selecting an entry in the path list which 1) causes the entries positioned below the selected entry in path list 504 to be removed, and updates the Choices list to the choices available at that navigational point. Accordingly, Guerrero's teachings are silent with respect to the feature of the claimed invention regarding pre-selecting or browsing an Active Link (Claim

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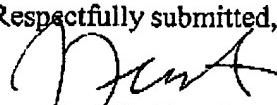
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1) let alone pre-selecting one of the menu items displayed while pre-selecting the Active Link (Claim 7). For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-7.

It is believed that the above Remarks represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the Application is now in condition for allowance, and such favorable determination is requested.

If any questions regarding this Application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

By

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan D. Feuchtwang, Esq.
Registration No. 41,017

July 11, 2006
Customer No. 33525